

RUSSIA, St. Petersburg. F.N. Meyer, Dec. 9. Visited the Imperial Botanical Garden and found it very rich in Central Asian material. There are probably more than 25 spp. of *Tamarix* alone, some of great value as ornamental or sand-binding plants in alkaline soils. Says there are many important botanical works in Russian that are not published in any other language and it is important that we get in closer touch with the Russian scientists, as they have much the same problems to face in agriculture that we have. Among plants of interest in the Caucasus he mentions several varieties of hazelnuts; *Lasiogrostis splendens* which he says the natives use for making mats; several splendid oaks; *Fagus caucasicus*, an interesting tree, and a very robust ivy, *Hedera colchica*, which grows to enormous size. There is a new species of red currant in the Altai mountains which has very large racemes of berries. This has not been introduced by the Russians. There is another currant near Yakutsk (*Ribes dicuscha*) which stands remarkably low temperatures. *Sorbus sambucifolia* in Kam-schatka produces edible berries where ordinary fruits cannot even be thought of. Has found out the native names and locations of the fine Turkestan grapes.

#### RECENT VISITORS.

CHINA. Mr. H. K. Fung. Is at present a student at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. When he finishes his course there he is going to have charge of an Experiment Station in Canton. Is much interested in the propagation of Chinese fruits.

CHINA. John Berkin, Kuling, is now visiting in Washington. Mr. Berkin lives at the summer resort, so to speak, of the Chinese missionaries, a delightfully located spot south of Hankow. He is much interested in the introduction of fruits into China and will gladly assist, so far as is compatible with his missionary work, in interesting the missionaries who come to Kuling in getting and sending in seeds of valuable plants. Is familiar with varieties of Chinese dates,